

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are canceled. Claims 17-37 are pending, of which Claim 17 is the sole independent claim. Claims 17-36 are subject to a restriction requirement, which is respectfully traversed. Claim 37 added subsequent to mailing of the restriction requirement is considered to be subject to the restriction requirement..

The Office Action mailed 10/31/2006 states the following: Applicant is required to elect one of species #1 and species #2 and species one of species A and species B and one of species X and species Y. Currently, claims 17, 18, 22-27, 30, 31 and 34 are generic. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement and a listing of all claims readable thereon including claims subsequently added.

Applicant identifies Species B, Species 2, and Species X that is elected consonant with the requirement. Claims 17, 18 and 21-37 are readable thereon. See the explanation below.

Claims 17, 18, 22-27, 30, 31 and 34 are indicated by the Office Action mailed 10/31/2006 as being generic, and are readable on the elected species.

Claim 28 is indicated by the Office Action mailed 10/31/2006 as not being generic to (nonelected) species Y, such that claim 28 is readable on the elected species.

Claim 21 is generic except as to the nonelected species #1 and species A, such that Claim 21 is readable on the elected species.

Claim 37 is generic except as to the nonelected species #1, such that claim 37 is readable on the elected species.

Claims 28-33, 35 and 36 are readable on the elected species, and are generic, for the reasons set forth in the discussion of the traversal of the restriction requirement herein.

Claims 19 and 20 are not readable on the elected species, since Claim 19 is generic with the exception of species 2, and Claim 20 is generic with the exception of species B.

The restriction requirement is traversed for the following reasons. The Office Action mailed 10/31/2006 states, "It is noted that claim 28 is not generic to species Y." The restriction

requirement further states that (parent) claim 17 is generic, and that (dependent) claims 24 and 25 recite a carded web requiring a binder [species Y using carded web for nonwoven web] and a spun bond web not requiring a binder [species X using spunbonded web for nonwoven web].
Thus, the embodiments of species X and Y have in common a nonwoven web.

Generic parent claim 17 recites a nonwoven web, in common with species X and Y. Moreover, dependent Claim 28 recites a nonwoven web. Claim 28 is dependent from generic parent claim 17 that recites the antecedent basis for the nonwoven web recited in claim 28. It is mandatory that a dependent claim 28 is entitled to all the limitations in a parent claim 17, which should make dependent claim 28 generic to species Y, similarly as the parent claim 17 is generic.

Similarly, each of dependent Claims 29-33, 35 and 36 recites a nonwoven web. Such dependent claims are dependent from generic parent claim 17 that recites the antecedent basis for the nonwoven web recited in each such dependent claims. It is mandatory that a dependent claim (each of Claims 29-33, 35 and 36) is entitled to all the limitations in a parent claim 17, which should make each of dependent Claims 29-33, 35 and 36 generic to species Y, similarly as parent claim 17 is generic.

Examination of the claims is requested.

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Amendment in response to
Notice of Non-compliant Amendment
dated 02/06/2007

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Conclusion

In view of the election with traverse in response to the restriction requirement, and the Remarks supporting patentability of the claims, allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

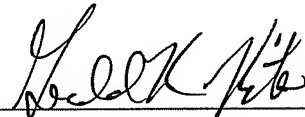
Respectfully submitted,

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